

PRESS RELEASE

Nord Stream Reaches Average Utilisation of 93% in 2017 – 51 bcm delivered to the European Union

Zug, Switzerland, 16 January 2018. In 2017, the Nord Stream Pipeline delivered 51 billion cubic metres (bcm) of natural gas to consumers in the European Union. This means the pipeline system operated at 93 per cent of its annual design capacity of 55 bcm. This is the highest utilization since the start of operation of the Nord Stream Pipeline System.

Since the commissioning of Line 1 in November 2011, Nord Stream has reliably and safely fulfilled all transport nominations without interruptions. Line 2 started operating in October 2012. After six years of operation a new milestone was reached in November 2017– the delivery of a total volume of 200 billion cubic metres. Until the end of 2017, the total volume of gas transported to the European Union reached 205.3 bcm.

Overall, the average utilisation rate of the pipeline has constantly increased year after year. In the first years of operation the pipelines' capacity was gradually ramped up, from 0.66 bcm which were transported in 2011, to 11.5 bcm in 2012 (equalling 33 per cent of the capacity), 23.8 bcm in 2013 (43 per cent), 35.5 bcm in 2014 (65 per cent) 39.1 bcm in 2015 (71 per cent), 43.8 bcm in 2016 (80 per cent), and now 51 bcm (93 per cent).

The twin pipeline system through the Baltic Sea with a length of about 1,200 kilometres stretches from Vyborg, Russia to Lubmin near Greifswald, Germany. As a key part of gas supply infrastructure, it offers the shortest connection between the immense gas reserves in Russia and energy markets in the European Union. Upon arrival in Germany, the gas is further transferred to neighbouring countries via the connecting pipelines NEL and OPAL.

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Notes to editors

Nord Stream AG is an international joint venture established for the planning, construction and operation of the twin offshore gas pipelines through the Baltic Sea. Russian OAO Gazprom holds a 51 per cent stake in the joint venture. The German companies BASF SE/Wintershall Holding GmbH and PEG Infrastruktur AG (PEGI/E.ON subsidiary) hold 15.5 per cent each, and the Dutch gas infrastructure company N.V. Nederlandse Gasunie, along with the leading French energy provider

ENGIE, each hold a 9 per cent stake. Nord Stream's head office and operations centre are both in Zug, Switzerland.

Nord Stream's natural gas pipelines through the Baltic Sea have the capacity to transport 55 billion cubic metres (bcm) of Russian gas a year to the EU for at least 50 years. Both lines run in parallel for 1,224 kilometres from Portovaya Bay, near Vyborg on the Russian Baltic Sea coast to Lubmin, Germany. Each pipeline comprises some 100,000 24-tonne concrete-weight-coated steel pipes laid on the seabed along the precise route approved by the authorities of the five countries through whose waters the pipelines pass.

Nord Stream is committed to safety and the environment: In the planning of the pipeline, the consortium invested 100 million euros in the most comprehensive research of the Baltic Sea ever conducted. The consortium also consulted widely to ensure that the design, routing, construction and operation of the pipeline would be safe and environmentally sound.

In 2006, Nord Stream was designated a "project of European interest" by the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union. This inclusion in the Trans-European Energy Network Guidelines (TEN-E) of the European Union recognised Nord Stream as a key project for meeting Europe's energy infrastructure needs.